

USFS PORCUPINE CAMPGROUND (PWS 6040035) SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

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State of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

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Under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996, all states are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to assess every source of public drinking water for its relative sensitivity to contaminants regulated by the Act. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is completing the assessments for all Idaho public drinking water systems. The assessment for the USFS Porcupine Campground drinking water source is based on a land use inventory within a 1,000 foot radius of the spring source, sensitivity factors associated with the source, and characteristics associated with either your aquifer or watershed in which you live.

This report, *Source Water Assessment for the USFS Porcupine Campground (PWS # 6040035)* describes the public drinking water system, the associated potential contaminant sources located within a 1,000 foot boundary around the drinking water source, and the susceptibility (risk) that may be associated with any associated potential contaminants. This assessment should be used as a planning tool, taken into account with local knowledge and concerns, to develop and implement appropriate protection measures for this system. **The results should not be used as an absolute measure of risk and they should not be used to undermine public confidence in the USFS Porcupine Campground water system.**

The USFS Porcupine Campground drinking water system consists of one spring (Figure 1) located approximately 7 miles west of the City of St. Charles. At this time, there appears to be no primary water quality issues associated with the spring source. No potential contaminant sources exist within the delineation capture zone (Figure 2).

The susceptibility of the spring to contamination was ranked as high, moderate, or low risk according to the following considerations: physical integrity of the spring intake structures, land use characteristics, and potentially significant contaminant sources. The susceptibility rankings are specific to a particular potential contaminant or category of contaminants. Therefore, a high susceptibility rating relative to one potential contaminant does not mean that the water system is at the same risk for all other potential contaminants. The relative ranking that is derived for the spring is a qualitative, screening-level step that, in many cases, uses generalized assumptions and best professional judgement.

The *Surface Water Treatment Rule*, a primary drinking water regulation, requires that all groundwater sources be evaluated to determine if they are groundwater under the influence of surface water (GWUDI). Groundwater that is influenced by surface water may travel a relatively short distance in a brief period through aquifer material with large pores or fractures. Under these circumstances, pathogenic micro-organisms may be transported in a viable state to the springs, infiltration gallery, or well intakes. For the USFS Porcupine Campground a final GWUDI evaluation has not been made.

The spring construction score was rated low. This reflects the proper construction of the intake and the presence of earthen material between the source water and intake. The risk to the water system is considered less if the spring intake is constructed with the proper material and in such a fashion as to prevent the infiltration of unwanted water with the potential to carry contaminants. The final susceptibility ranking for the spring is low for inorganic, volatile organic, and synthetic organic contaminants, and microbial contaminants (Table 1). A copy of the susceptibility analysis for the USFS Porcupine Campground water system along with a map showing any potential contaminant sources is included with this summary.

Table 1. Summary of USFS Porcupine Campground Susceptibility Evaluation

	Susceptibility Scores ¹								
	Contaminant Inventory				System Construction	Final Susceptibility Ranking			
Spring	IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials		IOC	VOC	SOC	Microbials
1	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L	L

¹H = High Susceptibility, M = Moderate Susceptibility, L = Low Susceptibility

IOC = inorganic chemical, VOC = volatile organic chemical, SOC = synthetic organic chemical

This assessment should be used as a basis for determining appropriate new protection measures or re-evaluating existing protection efforts. No matter what ranking a source receives, protection is always important. Whether the source is currently located in a “pristine” area or an area with numerous industrial and/or agricultural land uses, the way to ensure good water quality in the future is to act now to protect valuable water supply resources.

For the USFS Porcupine Campground water system, source water protection activities should focus first on improving the spring source protection strategy. The system will want to perform Groundwater Under the Direct Influence (GWUDI) testing as soon as possible. The water system should also consider developing a source water protection plan. Source water protection activities should be aimed at long-term management strategies even though these strategies may not yield results in the near term. For assistance in developing protection strategies please contact the Pocatello Regional Office of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality at (208) 236-6160.

POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT INVENTORY LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

AST (Aboveground Storage Tanks) – Sites with aboveground storage tanks.

Business Mailing List – This list contains potential contaminant sites identified through a yellow pages database search of standard industry codes (SIC).

CERCLIS – This includes sites considered for listing under the **Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)**. CERCLA, more commonly known as ASuperfund, is designed to clean up hazardous waste sites that are on the national priority list (NPL).

Cyanide Site – DEQ permitted and known historical sites/facilities using cyanide.

Dairy – Sites included in the primary contaminant source inventory represent those facilities regulated by Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) and may range from a few head to several thousand head of milking cows.

Deep Injection Well – Injection wells regulated under the Idaho Department of Water Resources generally for the disposal of stormwater runoff or agricultural field drainage.

Enhanced Inventory – Enhanced inventory locations are potential contaminant source sites added by the water system. These can include new sites not captured during the primary contaminant inventory, or corrected locations for sites not properly located during the primary contaminant inventory. Enhanced inventory sites can also include miscellaneous sites added by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) during the primary contaminant inventory.

Floodplain – This is a coverage of the 100-year floodplains.

Group 1 Sites – These are sites that show elevated levels of contaminants and are not within the priority one areas.

Inorganic Priority Area – Priority one areas where greater than 25% of the wells/springs show constituents higher than primary standards or other health standards.

Landfill – Areas of open and closed municipal and non-municipal landfills.

LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with leaking underground storage tanks as regulated under RCRA.

Mines and Quarries – Mines and quarries permitted through the Idaho Department of Lands.)

Nitrate Priority Area – Area where greater than 25% of wells/springs show nitrate values above 5mg/l.

NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) – Sites with NPDES permits. The Clean Water Act requires that any discharge of a pollutant to waters of the United States from a point source must be authorized by an NPDES permit.

Organic Priority Areas – These are any areas where greater than 25 % of wells/springs show levels greater than 1% of the primary standard or other health standards.

Recharge Point – This includes active, proposed, and possible recharge sites on the Snake River Plain.

RICRIS – Site regulated under **Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA)**. RCRA is commonly associated with the cradle to grave management approach for generation, storage, and disposal of hazardous wastes.

SARA Tier II (Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act Tier II Facilities) – These sites store certain types and amounts of hazardous materials and must be identified under the Community Right to Know Act.

Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) – The toxic release inventory list was developed as part of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know (Community Right to Know) Act passed in 1986. The Community Right to Know Act requires the reporting of any release of a chemical found on the TRI list.

UST (Underground Storage Tank) – Potential contaminant source sites associated with underground storage tanks regulated as regulated under RCRA.

Wastewater Land Applications Sites – These are areas where the land application of municipal or industrial wastewater is permitted by IDEQ.

Wellheads – These are drinking water well locations regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are not treated as potential contaminant sources.

NOTE: Many of the potential contaminant sources were located using a geocoding program where mailing addresses are used to locate a facility. Field verification of potential contaminant sources is an important element of an enhanced inventory

Spring Source Final Susceptibility Scoring

0-7 = Low Susceptibility

8-15 = Moderate Susceptibility

16-21 = High Susceptibility

1. System Construction

SCORE

Intake structure properly constructed	YES	0
Infiltration gallery or well under the direct influence of Surface Water	YES	0

Total System Construction Score 0

2. Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use

IOC
ScoreVOC
ScoreSOC
ScoreMicrobial
Score

Predominant land use type (land use or cover)	BASALT FLOW, UNDEVELOPED, OTHER	0	0	0	0
Farm chemical use high	NO	0	0	0	
Significant contaminant sources *	NO				
Sources of class II or III contaminants or microbials		0	0	0	0
Agricultural lands within 500 feet	NO	0	0	0	0
Three or more contaminant sources	NO	0	0	0	0
Sources of turbidity in the watershed	NO	0	0	0	0

Total Potential Contaminant Source / Land Use Score 0 0 0 0

3. Final Susceptibility Source Score

0

0

0

0

4. Final Source Ranking

Low

Low

Low

Low

* Special consideration due to significant contaminant sources
The source water has no special susceptibility concerns